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Robert E. Novak

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EXAMINER

PENG, FRED H

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/851,361	Applicant(s) NOVAK, ROBERT E.	
	Examiner FRED PENG	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-16, 18-20 and 30-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-16, 18-20 and 30-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/28/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 03/07/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on page 14 of Remarks that clearly, Safadi teaches that the originally compressed state of the streaming audiovisual programming (e.g., in the format in which it is received through the internet) is decoded by the central processing unit (CPU) 104 for display and storage. Thus, Safadi fails to teach or suggest "wherein the hardware decoder is configured to decode the selected output from the stream selector so as to convert the television signal and the IP encapsulated audio/video data from a compressed state as provided by the first source and the second source, respectively," as recited, among other things, in amended claim 1.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's arguments. Safadi does teach or suggest the hardware decoder is configured to decode the selected output from the stream selector so as to convert the television signal and the IP encapsulated audio/video data from a compressed state as provided by the first source and the second source, respectively (Para 42 lines 10-11; Para 44; Para 47; system is able to select a digital program from either primary tuner 202 or secondary tuner 203, the IP encapsulated audio/video data, for decoding and watching).

Applicant further argues on page 17 that Safadi does not teach a stream selector having a first input directly coupled to a first stream receiver, a second input indirectly coupled to a second stream receiver through a bus, and a select line coupled to a processor.

The Examiner also disagrees with applicant's arguments. Safadi inherently teaches or suggests a stream selector (FIG.1, 104, 112; Para 44; select for watching) having a first input directly coupled to a first stream receiver (output of primary tuner 202 directly coupled to the system bus 112 for clear digital signal), a second input (output of modem 101) indirectly coupled to a second stream receiver (203) through a bus (communication bus through the modem), and a select line coupled to a processor (Para 42 lines 10-11; Para 44; select one of two tuners output to decoder 103 for watching).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-20, 30-31, 34-36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Safadi et al (US 2005/0289617).

Claims 1, 11, 30 and 31, Safadi discloses a set top box (STB) for decoding audio/video streams from multiple sources (Fig.1; Para 27), the STB comprising:

a processor (104) coupled to a communication bus (112, 101; Para 41 lines 20-22);

a hardware decoder (103), coupled to the processor, for decoding audio/video streams;

a first stream receiver (202) configured to receive a first audio/video media stream from a first source, the first audio/video signal comprising a television signal (Para 37);

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a second stream receiver (203, 101) configured to receive a second audio/video stream from a second source, the second audio/video stream comprising Internet Protocol (IP)

encapsulated audio/video data, and the second source comprising an IP Source (Para 41); and

a stream selector (elements 104, 112) having first (output of primary tuner 202 through 111, 110 for analog or straight through for digital to system bus 112) and second inputs (output of secondary tuner 203 through DOCSIS modem 101 to system bus 112), a select line (Para 42 lines 10-11; Para 44; select one of two tuners output to decoder 103 for watching), and an output (signal output connected to video decoder 103 from system bus 112), the first input coupled directly to the first stream receiver (202; Para 37 lines 12-15), the second input coupled to the second stream receiver (203) through the communication bus (101; communication bus through the modem), the select line coupled to the processor (Para 38; Para 51 lines 5-10), and the output coupled to the hardware decoder, wherein the stream selector is configured to selectively direct one of the first audio/video stream and the second audio/video stream to the hardware decoder under control of the processor through the select line (CPU selectively controls the inputs to the output 103 for processing), and wherein the hardware decoder is configured to decode the selected output from the stream selector so as to convert the television signal and the IP encapsulated audio/video data from a compressed state as provided by the first source and the second source, respectively (Para 19 lines 4-7; Para 38 lines 6-8; Para 44; Para 47; selected channel from either tuners of television or internet for watching is decoded through video/audio decoder 103).

Claims 2 and 12, Safadi further discloses wherein the audio/video stream comprises a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) stream (Para 47), and wherein the hardware decoder comprises an MPEG decoder (Fig.1, element 103).

Claims 3 and 13, Safadi further discloses wherein the first stream receiver comprises a video tuner (Fig.1, element 202).

Claims 4 and 14, Safadi further discloses wherein the first source comprises a cable television source (Fig. 1, element 204).

Claims 5, 6, 15 and 16, Safadi further discloses wherein the second stream receiver comprises a modem device/Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification (DOCSIS) modem (FIG.1, element 101).

Claims 8 and 18, Safadi further discloses wherein the stream selector (Fig.1) comprises a multiplexer (Elements 104, 112 act as a multiplexer to multiplex multiple inputs to an output such as TV output or PVR recording) comprising the select line coupled to the processor.

Claims 9 and 19, Safadi further discloses (Fig.1) an audio/video controller (element 103) coupled to the hardware decoder (103) for formatting media streams for presentation by an external display device (element 119; Para 38 lines 6-10); and

an output (103) coupled to the hardware decoder for providing operable connection to the external display device (inherently has an output coupled to the hardware decoder for connection to display device).

Claims 10 and 20, Safadi further discloses (Fig.1) a storage device (106), coupled to the processor, for storing at least one media of the first audio/video stream and the second audio/video stream.

Claim 34, Safadi further discloses wherein the decoder comprises a hardware-based decoder (Fig. 1, element 103).

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Claim 35, Safadi further discloses wherein the multiplexed video signal and the streaming video signal are both encoded using a same technique (MPEG; Para 47), and wherein the decoder includes capability to decode signals encoded using the same technique (see Fig. 1 with MPEG decoder).

Claim 36, Safadi further discloses wherein the same technique comprises an MPEG encoding technique (MPEG; Para 47).

Claim 38, Safadi further discloses wherein the receiver is integrated with a set top box (Fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 32, 33, 37 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safadi et al (US 2005/0289617).

Claim 32, Safadi is silent about comprising a radio-frequency input coupled to a splitter, and the splitter comprises a first output coupled to the first processing path and a second output coupled to the second processing path.

Official Note is taken that a splitter is well known in the art to split an input to multiple outputs for multiple input connections.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Safadi to have a splitter integrated within the receiver as a common and economical way to split signals to multiple destinations from a single source like cable.

Claim 33, Safadi further discloses a modem device/Data Over Cable Service Interface Specification (DOCSIS) modem (FIG.1, element 101).

Claim 37, Safadi does not explicitly disclose wherein the same technique comprises a Digicypher encoding technique.

Official Notice is taken that video is compressed using various digital compression techniques, i.e., Digicypher, is well known in the art for compressed video and audio images to be transmitted over high bandwidth channels.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Safadi to encode data with Digicypher scheme so to take the advantage of transmitting compressed data over high-speed bandwidth channel, i.e., satellite beside of CATV network.

Claim 39, Safadi does not disclose wherein the receiver is integrated with a television set.

Official Notice is taken that integrating the receiver within a TV is well known in the art for simplification purpose.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate Safadi receiver within a TV so to reduce cost and simplify manufacturing process. Moreover, allow user to have a compact TV device.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRED PENG whose telephone number is (571)270-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 09:00-18:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fred Peng
Patent examiner

Vivek Srivastava
Supervisory Patent Examiner

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